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# The Parents' Newsletter

**December 1993** — **Selwyn House School**

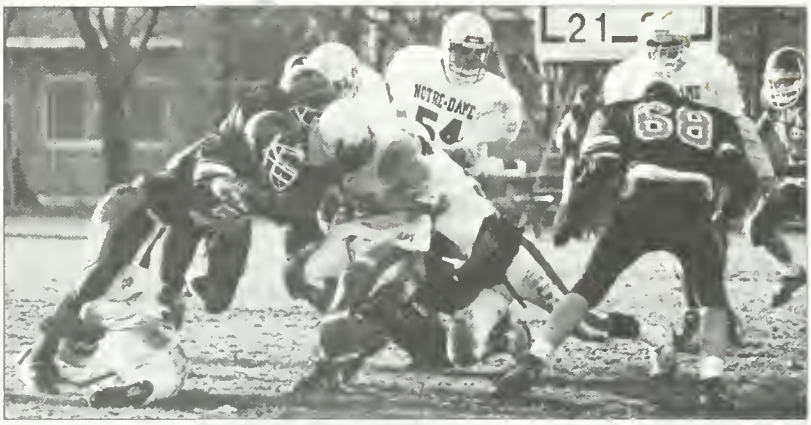

## First Time in 59 Years–Juvenile Football Team

# City Champions

The Juvenile Football programme under the excellent guidance of Head Coach, Mike Maurovich, captured the league championship for the first time in its 59 year history.

The Senior Gryphons played power house Notre Dame at Notre Dame on Sunday, November 7 and in front of 700 fans silenced the partisan crowd with outstanding offensive ball control and sound defensive play. The final score 37-26 shocked the Notre Dame team who had only given up 34 points in seven league games.

Congratulations to the Gryphons Team and to Coach Maurovich and his staff: Mike Downey, Andrew Lee, James Stewart, Rob Mullin and Teddy Wall!




# Provincial Public Speaking Champion!

Each year two students are selected from each of the Canadian provinces, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon to compete at the National Public Speaking Championships. The Quebec Championship Competition was held this year at Trafalgar School for Girls on November 18, 1993. Selwyn House was represented by Grade 9 student Gandhar Chakravarty. Twelve other schools were represented in the competition (Bishop's, Chambly County, Hudson High, MacDonald High, ECS, Queen of Angels, Sacred Heart, St. George's, Stanstead, Trafalgar and West Island College) and the level of competition was extremely high. Each competitor was required to deliver a prepared persuasive speech, an interpretive reading passage, and an impromptu speech. Despite being the youngest competitor and one of only two males, the 17 judges in three different rounds of competition agreed that the top speaker and winner of the tournament was Gandhar. He will travel to Winnipeg on January 27 to represent Quebec and if he is once again successful, and among the top four speakers, he will win the opportunity to compete in the World Championships in England in March.

We are extremely proud of Gandhar and wish him lots of luck in the upcoming competitions. We are also very proud that in its tenth year, this competition has for the first time seen the same school, Selwyn House, win the Quebec Championship two years in a row. Last year, Patrick Brown, then in Grade 10, placed first and went on to Winnipeg.

Kathi Biggs, Public Speaking Coach

# U-13 Goes West

This year the Selwyn House Under-13 Soccer team composed of 15 students from Grades 5 to 7, participated in the National U-13 Invitational hosted by St. Michael's University School in Victoria, B.C. The first leg of our journey took us to Vancouver where we had the opportunity of visiting several well-known sights including the MacMillan-Bloedel sawmill and the Capilano Suspension Bridge. We also took a gondola trip to the top of Grouse Mountain.

The next day the team boarded a ferry bound for Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. After docking we drove to Goldstream National Park to observe nature at its best. Arriving at the school that afternoon we were introduced to our billets who were to become our family until the end of the soccer tournament.

We arrived at the tournament the first morning in our soccer uniforms ready to play. By the end of the day, we progressed to the championship division. The next day started with an early loss to LCC but as the day continued we finished with a tie and a comeback win against Ashbury College. By the end of the second day, we learned that we had missed the Championship Final Four by one goal scored against in round-robin play. In the final game of the tournament we were defeated by last year's tournament champions, St. John's Ravenscourt, to finish 6th overall out of 16 teams, still a very respectable position.

The tournament was well played and every player gave the most he had. On behalf of the entire U-13 team I would like to thank the exceptional coaching of Mr. Alf Paoletti and Mr. David Cude. Also, a big thank you to our billets in Vancouver and Victoria.

James Cameron 7A

## Incredible, but true!

# Garage Sale Raises $26 484

**Some of the many terrific volunteers who helped make this year's Garage Sale a phenomenal success!**

This year's Selwyn House School Garage and Bake Sale and Raffle held on Saturday, October 23 was bigger and more successful than ever, and, once again, a record breaking event. The new Creative Craft Corner was a welcome addition and we plan to expand on it for the next sale.

We have decided to increase the amount of money that is to be donated to charity. This year two thousand dollars will go to Fund N77 at the Montreal Children's Hospital. This fund was created by Nicholas Matossian ('73), a Selwyn House Old Boy and has been continued by his friends since his death. Three thousand dollars is to be sent to Father John's Le Bon Dieu dans la rue (an organization that cares for street kids). The rest of the money will be put into the Selwyn House Trip Fund which enables students to take part in athletic and academic competitions across Canada and abroad.

We would like to thank all those who contributed towards the sale. Over 90 items were donated for the raffle, many of these from parents and we are most grateful. Once again, the lasagnas and quiches were a great success and better than ever. Many thanks to everyone who came to help out and especially to our committee—Micki Morton, Cathy Govan, Kate Esdaile, Donna Herba, Shirly Martoni, Natalie Wakrat and Barbara Adler as well as Kip Cobbett and Peter Morton who handled our money. The sale would not have been such a huge success without the support of Rob Wearing, Normand Brault (in the kitchen), Christine Krushelnyski and Annie Snabl, Mike Maurovich (who was responsible for the pumpkins), all the wonderful parents, and finally, the one and only Marc Krushelnyski!

Deborah Schatia and Francie Montgomery

Home-cooked lasagnas – made by hand and cooked with a smile as Coleen McKinnon gets into her work.

Lorraine Ratzer demonstrates her cutting skills while looking at the camera. Count the fingers.

# International Public Speaking Tournament

The Team: Antony Blaikie, Ms. Kathi Biggs (Coach), Gandhar Chakravarty and Jason McIntyre

On October 20-25, the Selwyn House Public Speaking Team attended the International Public Speaking Tournament at King's Edgehill School in Windsor, Nova Scotia. There were 35 schools participating from across Canada, the U.S., England, Cyprus and Bermuda—114 participants in all. The team consisting of Jason McIntyre, Gandhar Chakravarty and Antony Blaikie under the able and interesting guidance of teacher Kathi Biggs, was to put it lightly, outclassed at this tournament. Yet, *relatively speaking*, we did quite well individually and Gandhar reached the final of the Interpretive Reading category. He placed 4th among eight competitors, all of whom were at least 3 years his elder. We were the youngest and most inexperienced team at the tournament, which might explain our placing well back in the field.

As is always the case, we had loads of fun and learned a lot. It was a great experience for all of us and hopefully we will attend in future years as we become older, stronger and more experienced speakers.

Antony Blaikie 10A

# The 1993 Cum Laude Society Awards

The Cum Laude Society is a fellowship of scholars whose purpose is to recognize excellence in academic work. This year, Mark Andermann 11C, Matthew Beckerleg 11A, Andrew Lord 11A and Jay Waldron 11C, along with last year's Grade 11 students Bryan Guinness, Chris Mee and Diogo Bustani have been elected to the society.

Also at Selwyn House, the tradition of recognizing members of the teaching staff for their contribution to academic excellence continues. This year's recipients of the Cum Laude Society Award are Kathy Funamoto and Virginia Ferguson.

Congratulations to both student and staff award winners!

# Commended Students in the 1994 Merit Program

**Patrick Brown (11C) has been named a Commended Student in the 1994 National Merit Scholarship Program.**

About 35,000 Commended Students throughout North America are being honored for their outstanding performance on the 1992 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which was the route of entry to the 1994 Merit Program. Commended Students have shown exceptional academic promise by placing among the top five percent of more than one million program entrants.

An NMSC spokesperson stated,

> *"...being designated a Commended Student in this keen competition is a credit to these young people as well as to their schools, which play a key role in their development. We hope that the recognition these scholastically able students receive will encourage them to develop their talents and abilities to the fullest, and that the example they set will inspire other young men and women to strive for academic excellence. Commended Students represent a valuable intellectual resource crucial to our nation's well-being."*

**Well done, Patrick!**

# $2 490.00 Raised For the Kidney Foundation

*November 24, 1993*

*Dear Students and Staff of Selwyn House School:*

*On behalf of all the volunteers of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, we wish to express our gratitude for the concrete gesture of solidarity towards those suffering from kidney disease which you demonstrated by agreeing to take part in our annual Halloween Campaign.*

*Indeed, your generous cooperation will allow the Foundation to consolidate its qualities of leadership in the fields of research, patient services and organ donation promotion. We thank most sincerely Selwyn's co-ordinator, Mrs. Allard-Coutu, the students and the staff.*

*Over 121,000 bags of peanuts have been sold to date in Quebec raising over $360,000. As a result of your dedication, we are able to continue our fight to make kidney disease obsolete.*

*Kidney patients across Quebec thank you! We can't live without you!*

*Yours gratefully,*
*Linda Pellas, Director of Fund-raising*

# Founder's Day - A Family Day!

What a pleasure to have this year's Speirs Medal Award recipient, Conrad F. Harrington ('26), speak at our annual Founder's Day assembly. Mr. Harrington entertained the audience with anecdotes of his school life when he was a student attending Selwyn House. Mr. Harrington read a poem which was written for him by one of his most memorable teachers, Mr. Anstey. This illustrated poem, written in 1926, has been framed and was presented as a gift to the school. Mr. Harrington's grandsons, Conrad (5A) and George (1A) accepted this gift on behalf of the school. The poem will be hung in the library next to the set of encyclopedias entitled *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* that Mr. Harrington donated to the school in 1988.

*The pines grow straight up and send out straight branches—so do Selwyn House boys.*
*The lake keeps up its level—so does Selwyn House.*

*C. T. Anstey 1926*

## Middle School News

One of the proposals that Education Minister Lucienne Robillard unveiled in early November might have sounded familiar. That's because she was talking about one aspect of Middle School: students having a homeroom teacher who teaches at least two subjects. It reduces fragmentation of the day and allows each student to have at least one teacher who knows a good deal about them and who can act as mentor and advocate. Middle School is catching on.

In the next few months, students in Grades 7 and 8 will be concentrating on the Regional Science Fair. The English and French Departments will be joining the Science Department, making sure that the bilingual reports which will accompany the projects will be well written in addition to being technically correct. It's an exciting opportunity for the students because they will be able to pursue individual interests under the tutelage of all members of the Science Department and to work cooperatively with one or two others in their grade level. We hope to do well at this year's fair. Times, dates, and places will be forthcoming in the new year.

Carol Manning, Middle School Director

## Elementary School News

The school's annual Holiday Basket project culminates on December 15 with the delivery of food and gifts to the Montreal Women's Centre, Share the Warmth, and St. Gabriel's Parish (the three agencies with whom we are working this year). Each homeroom from Maternelle to Grade 11 has taken on the responsibility of providing a family with food for several meals, including a turkey as the main course of a seasonal feast. In addition, these classes provide suitable gifts for each member of the family.

In the Elementary School, Grade 7 students are responsible for organizing the pick-up and delivery of food baskets to the appropriate agency. This last stage in the process is crucial in ensuring that each holiday basket makes its way intact to the proper family.

In order for our students to understand better the importance of this project, representatives of our agency partners will address groups of students and explain in clear terms the level of poverty we have in our city, and the impact of this kind of giving.

The Elementary School's Reading Week in late November was a huge success. A grand total of 1226 books were read by boys in Grades 1-6, proving that there are 1226 good alternatives to television and Nintendo. Many people contributed time and effort to making this school-wide event work, but special thanks go to Irene Lunt and Pat Patterson for their excellent organization of ideas and events.

Geoff Dowd, Elementary School Director

## Campaign Trail...Not For Long!

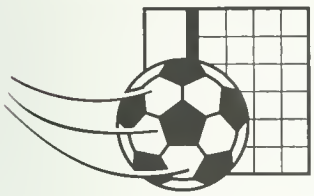
It was a hot day in September. I was in class. My school friend, Max Desmarais, asked, " Who will be the next prime minister of Canada?" The whole class said out loud," Kim Campbell." So I said, "Not for long!" The teacher asked, "Who do you think it will be, Jean Chrétien?" Max said, "Yeah", and a few guys laughed and fell off their chairs.

On Monday, October 25, Election Day, I had gym. I went to the park to play soccer and my gym teacher asked the same thing. I bet him a dollar that Mr. Chrétien would win. He said, "You just look in the newspaper." In the morning I saw the victory. I won the bet! I knew it all along. I feel like a politician. I knew Mr. Chrétien would be the next prime minister and it wouldn't be long before everyone in Canada would know too.

Maksim Knecht (4A)

## Grade 7 Soccer

# Winners of the GMAA City Championship



A great moment indeed was repeated this year by capturing the GMAA Bantam "2" Championship. The 1988 team was matched by this year's Grade 7 boys by posting a winning season and an undefeated play-off record. The boys had lost one game during the season to a tough Lasalle High team. They came on during the play-offs improving with each game. With increased confidence and relentless play they triumphed over the favourites by winning with a score of 2-1. The boys played as a team and enjoyed the feeling that comes with working hard for a common goal. They celebrated the win with a pizza party. Honourable mention should go to Guillaume Gouins-Descarries for keeping the ball out of the net, to Sean McKinnon for leading the defensive unit and to Camillo Durana for leading the offensive charges. Great team, great season and a great moment.

Alf Paoletti, Coach

# Bantam A Grade 8 Soccer—A Storybook Season

This season was indeed a memorable one for both the coach and the players. If we were to go back to day 1, our team consisted of eight players. We were faced with the possibility of having to forfeit the season if we could not produce a team. However, Chris Eich, Alan Bogos, Adam Benjamin, Michael Dalgleish, Jeffrey Gantz, and Phil Bexton came to us in time and switched their programmes so that we could play the season.

Without one day of practice together, we went out and surprised ourselves by beating Marymount 3-1 during a fierce rainstorm. We then proceeded on to the Bishop's Early Bird Tournament which we won without being scored on thanks to the superb goaltending of Tomek Nishijima who had but one game of experience as a goalkeeper. Later, we won the Centennial Academy tournament, again with no goals against. On the last day of the regular season, we faced unbeaten Loyola, the first place team in the league. Little did they know that that was about to change. We scored a goal in the second half to break a 0-0 tie and won the game 1-0.

Two-time tournament champs!

Our semi-final game was played at West Island College and although we had lost to them twice previously, our attitude was positive. At halftime, we were faced with a one goal deficit but Coach Cude kept our spirits high and we went into the second half with nothing but winning on our minds. Midway through the half, the team came alive. We had excellent goaltending along with superb defence from Roberto Bellini and company and two goals from Richard Martz. We went on to win the game and then on to the city championship. In the final against Loyola, we broke out to a quick 1-0 lead but they tied it up before the end of the half. They scored early in the second half and although we had many scoring chances, we could not connect and lost 2-1.

This season may have ended on a losing note but no one could honestly call this a losing season. This team was born of sheer determination and a great amount of credit must go to our coach, Mr. Cude, who certainly played a large role in this storybook season. I think every player should pat himself on the back because everyone played a part in making this year such a great success.

Richard Martz 8B

# Bantam Football

The (7-2) Baby Gryphons as usual came on very strong by season's end with victories over Bishop's College School, College Jean Eudes, and Loyola. In the league semi finals, the Gryphons played previously undefeated Lower Canada and after a 25-15 half-time deficit completed 21 straight points in the fourth quarter to qualify for a third straight championship game. We knew in the final that Loyola would be excited about facing the Gryphons due to a 16-14 Selwyn House win at the end of the regular season. The final score after a hard fought game ended with the score of 12-7. A very successful season. Coaches Mitchell, Nicoll, and Boyle were pleased with the team's progress.

Steve Mitchell, Athletic Director

# Willkommen und Auf Wiedersehen!

Selwyn House would like to extend a warm welcome and fond farewell to Rüdiger Dümpert who has spent the fall term here at the school. Rudy decided that he would like to improve his English and French and came to Montreal to do so. He has been living with his Selwyn friends, the Menzels, and has been participating in all aspects of the Grade 11 programme.

Rudy comes from Braunschweig in the centre of Germany. There, he attends *Gymnasium* in a public co-ed school (there are few private schools in Germany). Coming to an all-boys private school was not too great a shock, however, and he has become accustomed to wearing a uniform.

Rudy finds that the school day and year are longer. In Germany, he finishes his day at 1:30 P.M. and school is out for the year in late June. However, he doesn't mind the longer days. Rudy has joined the soccer team and is continuing to improve his trumpet playing.

And how is his English? Quite good actually. He has been studying English for the past 6 years in Germany and has had little trouble communicating with the teachers, however, amongst the students, it's not quite as easy.

Rudy and Selwyn pal, Tyler Cavell

Rudy returns to Germany at Christmas and will reunite with his family and friends. Rudy can't wait to tell his older brother that he has earned his driver's licence while here in Canada. The driving age in Germany is 18 and, at 16, Rudy will be able to chauffeur his older brother around.

Rudy has had a great experience while here at Selwyn House and would highly recommend an exchange programme, or simply taking the initiative, as he did, to spend some time in another country.

# The French Exchange Tour

Selwyn House School is proud to announce that this year the French Department will be offering its first French exchange trip. For the past several years, the department has been expanding its program in order to broaden and enrich our students' experience in French, and we feel that this will be an outstanding opportunity for all senior school students.

Mme Nancy Allard-Coutu has coordinated a varied, interesting itinerary for this two week exchange. The boys will leave on an overnight flight for Rouen, France on June 22, 1994 and return the morning of July 2, 1994.

During the nine day stay with French families, the boys will attend classes at l'École Cours Notre Dame, with three days set aside for educational day trips. For example, they will be touring Honfleur, an historic port lined with houses of wood and slate dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries. The second trip scheduled is to Dieppe, the fifth largest port in France, which boasts beautiful white cliffs like those found in Dover. This visit coincides with the anniversary of Canadian soldiers landing at Dieppe. The third trip is a full day guided tour of the Normandy region. This tour also includes some of the historic abbeys and valleys of the Seine.

On the morning of July 2, the students leave for Paris. They will be staying in a centrally located hotel. During the three day stay, the boys will have a guided tour of the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, experience an evening cruise on the Seine by Bateaux Mouches, take a guided walking tour of the Left Bank including the Sorbonne, and go to a French play.

In selecting the students to be invited on the trip, we will give priority to those who will billet a French student during his or her stay in Montreal. Twenty-one French students as well as three French teachers will arrive at Selwyn House on February 17 and leave March 2. Their itinerary is very similar to ours: attending classes in the morning and leaving the school for planned activities in the afternoon. Their three day trip will be to Ottawa.

The French Department's goals for this program are to ensure an outstanding French experience, to develop new and life-long friends, to understand a different culture and to experience total immersion in French. What a way to start one's summer holidays! Mme Allard-Coutu plans to continue French educational exchange travels on a annual or bi-annual basis.

Parents and students are urged to register as soon as possible in order to facilitate the planning process. There are still a few places available. Should you have any questions regarding this trip, please feel free to call the school at 931-9481.

# Dracula Brought to Life!

At that mystical and mysterious time of the year called Halloween, a group of ten ragged yet incredibly talented ninth graders set out to put on a grand performance of an old and tired piece called *Dracula*. If ever life was pumped into this celebration of death it was done that fateful Friday when the persistent group of ten laboured to put on a great show for the younger grades. They toiled long and hard for months, driven by their benevolent tyrant of a drama coach, Mrs. Viau.

From a rocky start, the constant repetitions, overseen by said tyrant, soon gave way to a smooth run. The expert cast fit perfectly into their roles (practice, by the third week seemed useless) and yet the expertise grew. Even the gender-bending roles fit the actors perfectly (shocking)! The excitement was, by then, exhausting.

By the time opening afternoon came around the whole school was daffy with anticipation. The curtains opened on a beautifully decorated and intricately arranged set. After months of struggle the play came off without a hitch. Well, maybe there were a few hitches, but they were funny and nobody noticed. One of the actors, Constantine Vassiliou, still struck with nervous panic after the play, was heard to have said, *I had fun; maybe we'll all get an Arts tie!*

Phil Robinson 9C

## Halloween Horrors

### Vampires, Guys and Ghouls

Only her hairdresser knows for sure.

The Count (Daniel Delisle 1A)

Cream of heart and kidney stew.
Ghoul Martin Rondeau serves supper.

# Co-op News

The Co-op has had a full term of activities. Small groups from Grade 1 to 7 have participated in language development, independent research, time management skills and script writing classes. Next term brings back the very popular *Science by Mail*. Teams of Grade 5 and 6 boys will receive 3 challenge packets from the Boston Museum of Science. Hands-on experiments will prepare them for their Big Science Challenges. The boys will send their creative solutions to their scientists who regularly correspond with encouraging comments and evaluations.

Also, we will begin a new writing program, Writers In Electronic Residence (WIER). Sponsored by the Writer's Development Trust and hosted by York University, our students will have access to this program through our computer network.

> *"WIER connects students to professional writers who review their work and, with the help of the teacher, critique, coax and inspire them to better writing, reading and understanding. What ensues is discussion, debate and lots of writing. An electronic literary salon." (WIER 1994).*

We hope that WIER will become an integral part of the Co-op program.

Kathy Funamoto, Co-op Co-ordinator

## BOOK ENDS

The Library is pleased to announce that the editors of the Gazette have asked SHS to participate in a book reviewing program for the Fridge Door section of the Sunday paper. Books reviewed by SHS boys will be donated to the Library. Our first reviewer was Timmy Deer (5A) and his assigned book was *Sasha and the Wiggly Tooth* by Rhea Tregebov. Timmy attended the 3rd in a series of Books and Breakfast celebrations (sponsored by Paragraph Books and the Gazette) in the Oval Room of the Ritz Hotel and read his review to the assembled Literati. We are very proud of him.

At previous Books and Breakfast Sundays, Mrs. Ferguson has been pleased to hear talks by prominent authors, Vikram Seth (*A Suitable Boy*), Lise Bissonnette (*Following the Summer*), Yves Beauchemin (*Juliette*), and Nino Ricci (*In a Glass House*). The library has processed our signed copies of these books and they are ready for loan.

As a closing note, Mr. Brad Moffat, Physics teacher, has gone into paroxysms of joy over and recommends highly our new book, *Complexity, the Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos* by M. Mitchell Waldrop. "Read it," says Mr. Moffat. "It's wonderful. It tells where we come from."

Virginia Ferguson, Librarian

BOOK ENDS

# The Bulletin Board

### Kindergarten Halloween Party

On Friday, October 29, the Kindergarten ghosts and goblins took great pride in presenting Halloween songs and poems to their visiting parents.

Le petit spectacle a été suivi d'une dégustation de bonbons, biscuits et sucreries. La présentation a été apprécié de tout le monde et nous remercions tous les parents qui ont assisté à notre petite fête.

Claudine Martel et
Celina Bérubé-Masoud

### The After-School Cryptic Message is Revealed

Day after day clues were added to the Secret Message board in the After School classroom.

We will have a pizza and pajama party.

The After-School Programme boys and staff enjoyed their pizza and movie clothed in, that's right, their PJ's, at a Pizza Pajamas Party held on November 9. This will definitely be an annual event!

Celina Bérubé-Masoud

### TV Busters

The Elementary School would like to request donations of prizes for our next TV Busters Week. Prizes should incorporate an activity that would encourage family togetherness, and, of course, no TV! Some examples are: a puzzle, restaurant gift certificates, a sled, a book to share on cold winter evenings, La Ronde passes, hockey/baseball tickets, etc. If you are able to donate such an item, please contact Carla Burke or Laurie McMurdo. Thank you very much in advance.

## Introducing Your Selwyn Store

**All proceeds from the Selwyn Store go to Selwyn House Association.**

This spring, Selwyn House will offer its students, parents and staff a new, fully stocked store.

Each month (until the opening) will bring new customed designed items for Selwyn House.

Please visit us from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. daily. Suggestions for new products are welcome.

**We now have in stock:**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHS "Gryphons" Baseball Caps | $20.00 |
| Boxer Shorts | $13.00 |
| Braided Leather Belts | $25.00 |
| Cube Memo Pads | $ 6.00 |

**See you in '94!**

## From all of us to all of you...

# Happy Holidays!

## Looking Ahead

**December 15**
Christmas break begins
3:00 P.M. dismissal

Delivery of Christmas Baskets

**December 16 and 17**
Varsity and Bantam Hockey Tournaments

**January 3**
Pedagogical Day—No school.

**January 4**
Students return.

**January 10**
Admissions Testing
Kindergarten to Grade 4

**January 11**
Parent Interviews

**January 19**
Admissions Open House
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
and 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

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